



MICHIGAN
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
PREVENTION &
TREATMENT BOARD

Domestic Violence Homicide Listing 2000

It is estimated that more than 100 domestic violence related homicides occur each year in Michigan. This list contains information on less than half of these murders, as clippings from Michigan newspapers are the only source of information used to compile it. The media does not cover all domestic homicides and the facts are often sketchy. Victims' names are listed alphabetically along with a synopsis of the circumstances surrounding their murders. Because the information found in the following pages comes from newspapers, the facts are often vague and little of "who" the victims were, is revealed. Instead, as many details as possible about the "way" the victims were killed is included. Listing the horrific acts perpetrated against them does not reveal the ways they protected their children nor how long they were afraid, begged not to be hurt, or screamed for help before their lives ended. These images help renew our determination to keep working for a safer world. Our thoughts are with the families and loved ones of those mentioned here and all others who died at the hands of those who professed to love them.

Please note: This list includes only homicides that took place in the calendar year 2000. Previous homicide lists covered the twelve-month period of October to September, MDVPTB's fiscal year. From this point forward the list will reflect the calendar year and will be published as soon as possible in the subsequent year. So for this transition year, you will find that some names on this year's list were also on the list last year. Using the State of Michigan's Offender Tracking System, information on charges, convictions and sentencing of domestic violence related murderers that were sentenced to prison was determined and is included.

Women Murdered	34
Children Murdered	3
<i>At minimum</i>	
Collateral Victims	10
<i>Friends or family, excluding children, murdered by domestic violence batterer</i>	
Total Murders Found in Clippings	47

NOTE: Of the 45 children who lost their mothers, 27 of them were at home during the murder or discovered their mothers' bodies.

The assailant also committed suicide in 15 of the murders.

1. Susan Andrews – Age 41 *Clinton Township, MI*

During the early morning hours of September 24th 2000, police received an emergency call from a woman asking for help. They could hear yelling in the background and then a man came on the phone. He assured them everything was fine before the line went dead. When police arrived at the scene they heard gunfire. Attempts at making contact inside the house were unsuccessful. Two hours later more shots were fired. Police found Susan Andrews dead on the living room floor, and they found Kevin Smith dead in the bedroom with a gun in his hand. Susan was a social worker and left behind a 16-year old son. Kevin Smith was a longtime companion.

2. Edward Perry Arreguin – Age 18 *Lansing, MI*

Edward Arreguin was stabbed to death October 1st 2000, while in the company of two sisters (17 and 19 years old). The sisters were also stabbed, but survived the attack. One of the sisters was recently threatened by her ex-boyfriend, Terrence Lee Taylor, 18. Taylor was charged with open murder and two counts of assault. His grandfather told reporters that Taylor had a child with one of the girls and was upset because he was not allowed to see the baby.

3. Debra Barth – Age 45 *Frankfort, MI*

Debra Barth's body was found in the basement of her home several days after her death in September 2000. Brian Lee Slade, who lived with Debra, was arrested and charged with her murder. No further information was found.

4. Lorraine Anadena Burnett – Age 34 *Allegan Township, MI*

Lorraine's body was found in her bed with multiple stab wounds on August 17th 2000. The sheriff's officer who found her body said that it was one of the most violent deaths he'd seen in a long time. Her ex-husband Tommy Lee Burnett has been charged with her murder. Their 10-year-old son was asleep in the house at the time of the murder and Burnett dropped the boy off at his grandmother's house as he fled the state. He later turned himself in to police in Indiana.

5. Doug Crane – Age 45 *Portage, MI*

Nanette Vasquez said Benito Vasquez (her estranged husband) walked into her home and shot her boyfriend Doug Crane on April 15th 2000. He then took her hostage for several hours during which he assaulted and raped her. Nanette finally talked Vasquez into turning himself in. Doug Crane died in the ambulance on the way to the hospital. Nannette Vasquez was divorcing Benito Vasquez and had obtained a personal protection order against him. He has been charged with murder, rape, kidnapping, assault and home invasion. He faces life in prison.

6. Helen Dalton – Age 36 *Grand Rapids, MI*

Helen was shot in the neck on July 28th 2000, and died two days later. Helen had told the neighbor that her boyfriend was packing his things and getting ready to leave. But Walter Gillen did not leave. A neighbor heard arguing next door and at one point heard a body hit the wall. The shooting occurred later that night. Gillen told police that he accidentally shot Helen while unloading his .357 magnum revolver. Police gathered evidence for two weeks and then charged him with the killing. Interviews with relatives and neighbors indicated that Helen had suffered cuts and bruises from

Gillen in the past. He was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 24 to 45 years in prison. Helen was the mother of 9 and 10-year-old boys.

7. Sandra Ann Duyst – Age 40 *Grand Rapids, MI*

Sandra's body was found in her bedroom on March 29th 2000, after her husband called 911 and told police she had committed suicide. Sandra had been shot twice behind her right ear. Results of DNA and blood-spatter tests and the autopsy determined that her death was a homicide. Her husband David Duyst Sr., former board president of West Side Christian School, told police that his wife had been depressed and suicidal since being kicked in the head by one of her horses in 1998. It was not long after the injury that Sandra hid a note in the china cabinet for her sister which said "If anything has happened to me look first to David Duyst Sr. He could be my killer. I would never commit suicide. He may have killed me." The note also said that her head injury was not from her horse kicking her in the head but from her husband beating her. David Duyst has been convicted of first-degree murder. Sandra was the mother of three children and an award-winning equestrian.

8. Pearl Evans – Age 48 *Decatur, MI*

Pearl Evans was hospitalized on January 3^d 2000, with extensive injuries. She underwent major surgery and then lapsed into a coma. Her husband, Lawrence Evans, maintained that she fell at home. He was charged with assault to do great bodily harm less than murder until Pearl died. Previous to the January injury that caused her death, charges were pending against Lawrence Evans for assaulting her in December 1999. Pearl died on March 15th 2000, after spending more than two months in a coma. Lawrence Evans was convicted of second-degree murder.

9. James Franklin – Age 32 *Taylor, MI*

On April 6th 2000, after seeing his ex-wife, Carolyn Lee, out with James Franklin, Frank Lee went to his home, where he lived with his two sons (ages 10 and 16), and asked the 16 year-old to call his mother and ask her to come over. Frank Lee started shooting when Carolyn and James drove into the driveway. After shooting James Franklin to death, he shot Carolyn in the head and face and then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. Their two sons watched it all from the front window of their home. Carolyn was in critical condition at the University of Michigan hospital. One neighbor is quoted as saying he was shocked by the killings, "I didn't think he would do anything like that. He never said anything to me about being outraged."

10. Penne Sue Gloor – Age 41 *Sturgis, MI*

Penne's husband, James Gloor, shot her twice in the back of the head and then shot himself in the chest. They were found dead in their home on June 3rd 2000. One of Penne's friends had called the police because she had not shown up for work. Friends said the couple had been having problems because James was ill and unemployed and he had previously threatened suicide.

11. Denise M. Goddard – Age Unknown *Flint, MI*

Denise died of multiple stab wounds and head trauma on December 20th 2000. Her boyfriend, Ronald K. Abbott, stabbed her in the upper body more than 70 times with a knife and a pair of scissors. He also used a heavy gargoyle statue to crush her head. Denise's friend Jayne Reagor

was also assaulted when she tried to help her. Jayne was hospitalized for several weeks with a concussion and other injuries, including the loss of part of one ear. Abbott's defense attorney told jurors that the attack was "a heat of passion crime" and he should be convicted of nothing more than voluntary manslaughter. Ronald Abbott, was convicted of first-degree murder.

12. Terry Hegle – Age 56 Bay City, MI

On September 14th 2000, Terry Hegle was stabbed in the chest by Timothy Chislea as he came out of a restaurant. Terry was dating Chislea's ex-wife whom he had previously represented in divorce proceedings. As Terry Hegle lay dying, Chislea plunged a second knife into his own chest and fell forward on Terry's body driving the knife deeper into his own chest. Both men died later at the hospital. Chislea left a note for his wife that read "Death is easier to handle than divorce".

13. Joyce Holey – Age 33 Bath Township, MI

Joyce's body was found on April 4th 2000, along a two-track road. An autopsy determined she died from a blunt trauma. After a month of investigation, police arrested Bryon Marsh, her boyfriend of 8 years and accused him of hitting Joyce with his truck. He was charged with second-degree murder but was convicted of manslaughter.

14. Bonnie Jean Jones – Age 42 Kalamazoo, MI

Bonnie Jean was stabbed in the abdomen with a steak knife during "an argument" on June 3^d 2000. She died two days later. Witnesses told a reporter that the day of the stabbing they saw David Martinez "knock her down, push her and kick her" and heard him say, "I'll kill you." A witness also saw Bonnie come outside crying with a bruised eye, and later saw Martinez grabbing her neck with one hand and punching her with the other." Martinez pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and under a plea agreement was sentenced to 5 to 15 years in prison.

15. Marie Karafa – Age 45 Muskegon Township, MI

Marie's body and that of her live-in boyfriend, Randie Berry, were found in her home by Marie's 19 year-old-son Jason, on Christmas Day, 2000. Each had died from a gunshot to the head. The gun was found under the body of Randie Berry. A detective said the couple had been "having domestic problems" but police had never been called to the house. Marie's sister-in-law stated that Berry had been drinking heavily in the last six months. She believes Marie called off their engagement because of his drinking and the arguing that ensued because of it.

16. Jeanette Kay Kelly – Age 42 Portage, MI

Jeanette was taken hostage in her home by Dale McNeal her former boyfriend on August 9th 2000. After a four-hour standoff, McNeal shot her in the head and then turned the gun on himself. Her two daughters escaped as a result of a safety plan Jeanette had made with them in case McNeal ever showed up. Two weeks previously she had requested a Personal Protection Order in which she stated "Please help protect me from this man. I am truly afraid of what he might do." Jeanette had also given his picture to the Neighborhood Watch. McNeal had threatened to kill her and her entire family if she broke up with him. Jeanette was the mother of three children. Friends and neighbors described Jeanette as "a quiet and caring person".

17. Sandra Lee Klomp – Age 56 *Kalamazoo Township, MI*

On May 1st 2000, Sandra was murdered by her husband of 31 years, William Klomp, who then killed himself. Police recovered a small caliber handgun from their bloodstained room. According to the newspaper “Court and police records indicate that the marriage was turbulent and sometimes violent”. In 1997 Sandra filed for divorce and obtained a personal protection order after Klomp tried to run her off the road.

18. Natalie Lester – Age 34 *Shelby Township, MI*

Natalie’s death in the early hours of January 1st was the first homicide reported in Macomb County in the year 2000. Natalie and her boyfriend, Samuel Thomas Lucero had returned to his parents’ home with another couple after a New Year’s celebration. She went upstairs with Lucero and the other couple heard them arguing and then heard a noise. When Lucero came downstairs he told them that Natalie had been injured. Paramedics found her dead from a single gunshot to the head. Lucero has been convicted of second-degree murder. He was sentenced to 25 to 50 years in prison.

19. Deanna Sue Lividini – Age 28 *Owosso, MI*

Deanna was shot at least 5 times with a semi-automatic pistol on April 26th 2000, when she opened the door to her ex-boyfriend Brad E. Holmes. He had already been charged with assaulting her but he failed to show up for his trial, where she was to be a witness. Deanna’s sister and her two children, and Deanna’s two children were asleep in the home when she was murdered. The following day Brad Holmes was found dead in his car. He had shot himself in the head using the same gun that was used to kill Deanna.

20. Jennifer Luther – Age 24 *Rochester Hills, MI*

Police found Jennifer’s fully clothed body in a bathtub in her home on July 5th 2000. Her estranged husband Clarence Luther is charged with first-degree murder for forcing her into the bathtub and holding her under water until she drowned. The couple's three-year-old daughter was asleep in her room during the murder. Jennifer separated from Luther 5 months earlier. She had obtained a Personal Protection Order.

21. Patti Nickerson Manning – Age 40 *Palmer, MI*

Police found Patti’s body in her home on September 23rd 2000, after receiving a 911 call from her husband Donald Manning stating that that he “had fatally shot his wife”. Donald Manning was arrested and arraigned on a charge of open murder. He stated during his trial that he was carrying a loaded shotgun when his left knee buckled due to an injury, and when he cringed he accidentally pulled the trigger shooting Patti in the chest. Police said that he did not attempt to give Patti first aid, and he waited over three hours before calling 911. Manning was convicted of second-degree murder on August 28th. A childhood friend of Patti’s, who is a long-time activist in the Battered Women’s Movement, had this to say about her. “Patti liked: laughing so hard her face hurt; taking a drive on a beautiful road; lying in bed and listening to the rain outside; rainbows and sunshine in the rain; cold milk and warm cookies; finding a bargain; walking in the woods; and children.” Patti’s friend also told of her courage when she escaped from a violent husband in Maine years ago. She made it halfway across the country to Michigan with her three children in tow and no money. In 1989 her 5-year-old daughter was mauled to death by a wolf dog and Patti was instrumental in

the passage of a law controlling the breeding of the animal. Patti lived with her husband in a remote area of Marquette County. She is survived by two adult sons and a ten year-old daughter.

22. Sonia Salguero Mejia – Age 42 *Grand Rapids, MI*

Sonia's body was found by her sister on November 11th 2000, in her apartment. She had been stabbed repeatedly. Her sister had come to the apartment to inform Sonia that her boyfriend (Felix Posadas-Godet) had been killed in a traffic accident. Police found a bloody knife in his pocket and determined that he had killed Sonia and then committed suicide by driving the wrong way on I-94 with his lights out and had been hit by a semi-truck. Sonia's sister said, "The man made her life fall apart. He completely dominated her. He didn't want her to have contact with her family."

23. Valerie Morton – Age 46 *Flint, MI*

Valerie died due to a gunshot to the head on May 10th 2000. Her body was found on the sofa in her home more than 24 hours after her death. Willie Joe Jamerson pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, admitting that he shot her during an argument. The judge sentenced him to 20-40 years in prison stating "guns, alcohol, and drugs do not mix, and that's what led to the slaying."

24. Moukalled (woman, first name unknown) – Age Unknown *Farmington Hills, MI*

25. Child (Unspecified number of children, at least 2, no names) – Age Unknown

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The day before Thanksgiving, 2000 Jihad Hassan Moukalled returned from a trip to Las Vegas distraught over gambling losses. He suffocated his children and then shot his pregnant wife and himself to death. No other details were provided in the single news clipping received.

27. Lynn Marie Ormsby – Age 43 *Rose City, MI*

Lynn died on September 11th 2000, when her live-in boyfriend, Daniel Rashotte, shot her in the chest. Her sons, ages 9 and 11, came around the corner and found Lynn lying in the doorway unresponsive with blood spilling from her mouth. Rashotte told them "I shot your mother." The children tried to revive her without success and then ran outside screaming. The boys and their 13-year-old sister ran to a neighbor's house to call 911. The neighbor told reporters, "I'll never forget the look in that little boy's eyes." While police were surrounding the house a shot was heard. They found Lynn's body and Rashotte's body nearby. He had shot himself in the head with a rifle.

Rashotte was the second man to have subjected Lynn and her children to domestic terrorism. In September 1997 the children's father held them all hostage in the same home. When he finally surrendered, police found 15 assault rifles, shotguns, handguns and 1,500 rounds of ammunition. The children were covered with welts and bruises. They told the court about years of regular beatings by their father. He was convicted of first-degree child abuse and federal firearm violations and is presently in prison. Lynn pleaded guilty to abuse and neglect of her children due to "failure to protect", and her children were taken away and put in foster homes. They were eventually returned. Once Lynn was safe from her husband, because he was in jail, she filed for divorce. Even though he was behind bars she needed to obtain a Personal Protection Order because he was threatening and harassing her from prison. Neighbors and family were unaware of the violence in this home because Lynn hid it so well. It was reported in the news article that "Authorities acknowledge that Lynn feared losing her children again if they discovered any violence at home".

28. Vimalaben Patel – Age 36 Bay City, MI

Vimalaben died June 28th 2000, two days after being set on fire. She suffered burns over 60% of her body and lost all of her fingers. Her husband, Rameshbhai Patel, was originally charged with assault with intent to commit murder. After she died, the charge was changed to open murder and extortion until forensic tests showed that she had struck the match that ignited the fire. Their three children testified that on the night Vimalaben was set on fire, her husband had ordered her to shave her head or he would kill her. Two nights before that Patel had hit her with a cleanser can and kicked her, then threatened to kill her and all three children if they told the police. This death has been included in the homicide list because it is evident that Vimalaben died due to domestic violence. Her husband pleaded no contest to domestic violence and extortion and was sentenced to a minimum of 18 months in prison and then will be deported to India. He gave up his parental rights.

29. Judith Petroff – Age 62 West Bloomfield, MI

On September 26th 2000, after receiving a 911 call in which the caller hung up without saying anything, police went to the condominium where Judith and her husband lived. The door of the building was left open and the police found her body along with that of her husband Edward Petroff Jr. Each had been killed with a single bullet. A handgun and the telephone were found near Edward Petroff's body. Their belongings had been packed in boxes as if they were preparing to move out.

30. George Pluta – Age 47 Paw Paw, MI

He was shot to death on August 25th 2000, by John Petry. Petry and his wife were in the process of divorcing and he was angry over her relationship with George Pluta. When the police arrived, Petry shot himself in the head and died.

31. Vialette Pratt – Age 23 Clinton Township, MI

32. Natalya Pratt – Age 3 months

Vialette and her infant daughter were strangled to death in their beds on August 29th 2000, by Jeremy John Pratt. Police said that Pratt admitted killing his wife and daughter. He told them he strangled Vialette during sex and suffocated the baby in her crib near the bed because she woke up. The woman's sister was sleeping with her son downstairs and discovered the bodies. Pratt turned himself in that same day. He was convicted of sexual assault in 1999 and was currently attending anger management classes "to deal with a temper problem." The newspaper quoted Detective Captain Gary Franey about the situation, "There was some pent-up hostilities with the marriage".

33. Theresa Redmon – Age 30 Muskegon Heights, MI

The man who assaulted Theresa on August 23rd 2000 drove her nude and battered body to the home of a friend. She was pronounced dead shortly after. The assailant had been in a relationship with her for the past year. He had beaten her in a motel earlier in the evening. Police had not released the perpetrator's name by the time the news article was published.

34. Rae Ann Rice – Age 32 *Mt.Clemens, MI*

35. Lisa Blaze – Age 33

36. Dane Baetz – Age 38

On April 29th 2000, Rae Ann, her sister Lisa and Lisa's boyfriend Dane were ambushed in the Rice home where they had gone to retrieve Rae Ann's belongings. She had separated from her husband Michael Rice after he pulled a gun on her several days earlier. Rae Ann had gotten the children out of the house as she was advised to do, and then returned with support to get some of her belongings at a time when Rice would normally have been at work. But he had been waiting for them. Michael Rice's brother was upstairs in the home when he heard screaming and shots being fired. Dane was severely wounded but managed to escape from the basement and told the brother to call 911. He later died in surgery. Police found the bodies of Rae Ann and Lisa in the basement. They had each been shot in the head. Michael Rice had committed suicide and his body was found lying near Rae Ann. The couple had two boys and Michael had two children from a previous relationship.

37. Tonda Rondo – Age 28 *Adrian, MI*

Tonda's nine-year-old daughter found her lifeless body in bed on March 9th 2000 and called her mother's sister and said she couldn't wake her mom up. Tonda had been strangled to death. Police later found the body of Jeffery Alan Rondo in the garage with a fatal gunshot wound to the head. Tonda had filed for divorce Feb 15th but had agreed to continue living in the house to care for their three children (a 9 year-old and twin 6 year-olds) until the settlement. All three children were at home when the bodies were discovered.

38. Belinda Schley – Age 46 *Detroit, MI*

39. Marvin Schley – Age 22

40. Maurice Schley – Age 22

The ex-boyfriend of Belinda Shley's daughter has been charged with three counts of murder in the shooting deaths of Belinda and her twin sons Marvin and Maurice. They were shot to death in their home on December 26th 2000. Police allege that after forcing his way into the house Fleming assaulted and started to rape Belinda's daughter. The twin sons came home and struggled with him. He pulled out a handgun and fired several shots killing Belinda and both of her sons. Her daughter was in protective custody during the two days after the murders when a nationwide search for Richard Fleming was conducted. He was arrested less than two miles from where the murders took place.

41. Janine Schoumaker – Age 50 *Douglas, MI*

Janine Schoumaker died September 25th 2000, almost three weeks after she suffered head injuries during an "alleged altercation with her husband Raoul Schoumaker, 52." The initial assault occurred September 6th or 7th. The police came to the house and found her with bruises on her face and arms. She spent a week in the hospital and recovered enough to go home. About five days later she was re-admitted to the hospital and died shortly after. The medical examiner's office has listed the cause of death as "medical complications of cranial cerebral trauma." Schoumaker said he has no recollection of the assault due to being intoxicated. Raoul Schoumaker was originally charged with second-degree murder but later pleaded no contest to an involuntary manslaughter count. He was sentenced to one year in jail and then is to be deported to Belgium. A friend of

Janine's said, "This is a very sad story. I'm sure everyone would tell you she was a beautiful, elegant and intelligent woman."

42. Anna Sell – Age 22 *Lyndon Township, MI*

On November 5th 2000, a friend of Anna's witnessed her being assaulted and drove to a pay phone and called police. Richard Lewis Temple was on the premises when authorities arrived. Firefighters and paramedics performed CPR on Anna and she was taken to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death is believed to be strangulation. Richard Lewis Temple was arrested on an open murder charge. His ex-wife, Traci Temple, had twice filed for personal protection orders against him. Anna was approximately seven months pregnant at the time of her death.

43. Sutherland (first name unknown) – Age 21 *Detroit, MI*

This mother of a two-week old infant was attacked on January 22nd 2000, and beaten to death with a shovel and a two-by-four. According to her 19 year-old sister, she and their mother were in the home when Antoine M. Anderson (the young mother's ex-boyfriend) broke in and began a rampage that lasted more than eight hours. He tied the women up with duct tape, raped the 19-year-old sister and covered their heads with plastic. He also attempted to suffocate the infant by putting plastic and heavy blankets over him. He intermittently beat his ex-girlfriend and the other two women over the entire time he was in the home. After he left, the sister escaped and called 911. Police found the three women covered in blood. The young mother was dead, her mother was placed in intensive care and the 19-year-old was hospitalized for several days. The names of the victims were not released nor was there any information about the condition of the infant. Anderson was found hiding in an abandoned house. He has been charged and convicted of first-degree murder, three counts of attempted murder, criminal sexual assault and home invasion.

44. Sharon Thomas – Age 25 *Kalamazoo, MI*

Sharon's body was found by her three school-age children on August 31st 2000. She had been bludgeoned to death. The same day as the attack on Sharon, her ex-boyfriend Nathaniel Buchanan shot himself in the head and was in critical condition in an Indianapolis hospital. By September 28th he had recovered enough to be arraigned on a charge of open murder. Sharon's father, Eddie Thomas, knew Buchanan casually and found out he had been in prison due to a 1991 knife attack on a former girlfriend for which he was sentenced to 3-10 years. Eddie Thomas is quoted as saying "I warned her about him. She was shocked, but at the same time I think this man had put fear in her heart, but she kept it from me." In the last month before her death, Sharon's father learned about an incident where Sharon was strangled and one in which her child was bruised with a board. There was an active warrant for Buchanan on that assault. The weekend before her death, after trying unsuccessfully to get the man to stay away from her, Sharon called her older sister in Texas for help. Sharon was killed before her sister arrived. No further information was found concerning the outcome of the charges against Nathaniel Buchanan.

45. Gwenda Meshayl Thompson – Age 42 *Benton Township, MI*

On April 29th 2000 Gwenda's body was found on the side of the road a half-mile from the local police station. She had been stabbed more than 30 times and her throat was slashed. Robert Lee

Thomas, age 63, was convicted of first degree murder in her death. Prosecution witnesses stated that he had threatened to kill her for seeing other men. 10 years earlier Thomas was convicted of slashing his girlfriend's face and neck. He had just recently been released from prison. Gwenda was the mother of four children.

46. Phillicia Welcome – Age 24 *Detroit, MI*

Phillicia was abducted on September 28th 2000 as she walked her 10-year-old son to school. Her body was found in the apartment of Joseph Flowers three days later. She had died of multiple gunshot wounds. She had recently obtained a personal protection order against Flowers. The day after her body was found, Joseph Flowers committed suicide in the apartment where Phillicia had lived with her sister. Two little boys lost their mother when Phillicia died.

47. Nanette Lynn Marie Wells – Age 35 *Flint, MI*

Nanette's children discovered her body in her bedroom on the morning of April 13th 2000. An autopsy revealed that she had died of asphyxiation. Nanette's husband, Jody Wells, was convicted of first degree murder for strangling her. Nanette had filed for divorce and had told friends that her husband said he would kill her before letting her take their daughter. He was described as "unnatural, obsessive and controlling". The couple had four children between them.